



COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL  
*Scholarship Program*

# JAMEAL FINDS A SECOND HOME AT BOARDING SCHOOL

The Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program gave Jameal the opportunity to leave his remote island for boarding school, where he has significantly improved his academic performance while discovering new passions for music, construction and football. He credits the structured study periods, round-the-clock academic support and nutritious meals for keeping him mentally and physically prepared for success. Without this scholarship, such an experience would have remained out of reach for him.

Reflecting on his journey, Jameal shares, “My boarding experience overall is wonderful. I’ve been living away from home for approximately three years now and this has become my second home. I remember the first couple of nights — it was a bit worrying. After two days though, I found my space and myself. Since then, it’s been comfortable, warm and welcoming. I enjoy the extracurricular activities and having social time with my cousin from home, out on the footy fields. The boarding staff have been so supportive whenever I need someone, and the Clontarf staff always assist me to attend school sports outside of school.

“The boarding school staff have been a great help to me, always checking on my wellbeing. They take the time to sit down and be a shoulder, or an ear to hear my concerns. I have built genuine bonds with them, knowing I always have someone to pick me up when I’m down.”

Jameal has uncovered interests he might never have discovered otherwise.

“Since studying music—and achieving the best results—I have found a great interest in the music industry, and also in building and constructing things out of wood and metal. With my sport, I have come a long way too. I have grown my interest in other sports such as AFL, basketball, netball, rugby union and boxing.”

Jameal has also benefited in his personal development, learning soft skills such as leadership, social skills, communication, time management and independence. Through the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program’s support, he has been able to focus on his studies and personal growth rather than worrying about financial barriers.

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Boarding school helped so much with my personal growth, helped me to become more independent and always managing my time, at boarding and day school. Compared to life on the little remote island, it has helped me understand life away from home and in the bigger world.

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Now serving as a role model for younger students and new boarders, Jameal feels confident about what lies ahead.

“Boarding has helped to influence me in setting my career goals and preparing me for my future career after completing Year 12.”

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